

State Collegian.

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A Serious Disaster Averted.

The first serious fire in any of the college buildings for years occurred in the Chemistry Building on Monday afternoon. During the fractional distillation of some light oils the fumes of benzine escaped and ignited from a nearby flame. In a short time the whole room was burning fiercely and before water could be turned on the flames had gone through the ceiling to the large physics lecture room above. A number of hose lines were run from Main Building and McAllister Hall, but for some reason the pressure was insufficient at first. During this time the fire began to look serious and the contents of the Chemistry and Physics Buildings were removed. In the excitement, a number of valuable instruments were damaged.

When high pressure water was finally secured and ladders and axes from the village fire department had arrived, the flames were soon controlled and prevented from spreading further. The organic laboratory and the physics lecture room were completely ruined and the interior will have to be rebuilt. This loss is covered by insurance, but damage to instruments taken out of the building will fall on the college.

As a result of this affair, it has become very evident that our facilities for fighting fire are inadequate. The lack of a sufficient supply of water and some trained organization to take the lead in emergencies of this kind might have caused the loss of the whole building. In spite of the utmost endeavors of the student body and many deeds of per-

sonal bravery, it seemed for a time as though the building could not be saved.

It has been learned on good authority that plans have been under way for some time for better fire-fighting apparatus and regulations for its use. Captain Hay has the matter in charge and will take it up again when he returns from Washington. It has been suggested that a fire chief be appointed, with several lieutenants, each of whom should be in charge of a picked squad of men. These men would take charge of any fire which might occur, all others being kept at a distance by a squad detailed for that purpose. Occasional drills to accustom them to the use of the apparatus should also be held. The efforts of the town fire company to secure suitable apparatus are to be commended, and it is likely that before many weeks both college and town property will receive better protection than heretofore.

Coming, "Just Out of College."

Students and townspeople who like to see a good play will be glad to learn that arrangements have been completed by which a strong company will present George Ade's musical comedy "Just Out of College," in the Auditorium on April 13. The show is being secured at considerable expense, and the proceeds will be for the benefit of the local fire company. The comedy will be played in Pittsburg next week, and the troupe will stop off here on their way to New York. Lack of space prevents the giving of details in this issue, but further notice will be given next week.

Track Trials.

The results of the track trials held last Saturday are as follows:

100 yard dash—Guyer, Schein, Lenchner. Time, 11 seconds.

220 yard dash—Guyer, Smith, Lenchner. Time, 24 2-5 seconds.

Quarter mile—Guyer, Miller and Hay, Smith. Time, 55 2-5 seconds.

Half mile—O'Neil, Metzger, Yarnall. Time, 2 minutes, 18 seconds.

One mile—Berkebile, Howarth, Lindsay. Time, 4 minutes 55 2-5 seconds.

Two mile run—McFarland, Elder, Maine. Time, 11 minutes 40 seconds.

120 hurdles—Armsby. Time, 17 seconds.

High jump—Braddock, Sadler. Height, 5 feet.

Broad jump, Mathers, Brubaker. Distance, 19 feet, 7 inches.

These results are considered very satisfactory at this time of the year. The track was not in the best of condition owing to the recent changes made necessary by the addition to the Chemistry building. In the two mile run Elder forgot the change and ran an extra lap, throwing away his chance to win the event. He was on the inside track, and even with McFarland, when he made the mistake.

There were a large number of men, who for one reason or another, were unable to be out for the trials. They will be given an opportunity later to show their ability, probably this week.

The engagement of Miss Helen D. Musser, '03, and Mr. Ralph L. Duff, '05, has been announced. The wedding will take place in the near future.